

TRANSLATION EQUIVALENCE AND STRATEGIES IN “*LAUT BER CERITA* (THE SEA SPEAKS HIS NAME)” NOVEL BY LEILA S. CHUDORI

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Abstract

There are many ways that could be done to introduce culture of a country to the international world, one of them is through translation works. This research is conducted by using qualitative approach and content analysis method. The data used in this research are words and phrases found in “*Laut Ber cerita* (The Sea Speaks His Name)” novel by Leila S. Chudori. In this novel, there are many cultural terms, local language from Javanese people, and dictions so that when they are translated to English, they would be interesting because some of the terms, local language and dictions still do not have equivalences in Target Language. In this research, the researcher analyzed 45 data and divided to 2 categories; 19 data in word category, and 26 data in phrase one. The research findings consist of dynamic equivalence, formal equivalence, and equivalence at word levels for translation strategy they are adaptation, communicative translation, semantic translation, descriptive equivalence, idiomatic translation, literal translation, through translation, and transference. The most often strategies used are adaptation, communicative translation, and semantic translation. Through this research, I have knowledge of translation equivalence and how translation strategy being applied to words and phrases.

Keywords: translation, translation equivalence, translation strategy

INTRODUCTION

Any translation activity basically aims at reproducing a text in a target language (TL) that fully represents the meaning contained in its source text (ST). However, this goal certainly cannot be achieved without going through a good translation process. Due to the important role of process in producing a good translation product, a structured translation process is one of the indicators of successfully producing quality translation product (Rosa, 2017). Literary works such as novel besides as a media for an author to tell a story, it could also work as a media for culture transfer. The domain of translation studies has expanded beyond the limits of language to include the cultures of the source and the target languages. Translation theorists, however, showed interest in cultural aspects of translation as early as the nineteenth century, probably earlier.

Process-oriented translation studies focus on researching the whole translation process experienced by a translator. In other words, process-oriented translation studies are

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related to observational studies in the procedure of language transfer from source language (SL) to TL which includes pauses in translation process (Kumpulainen, 2015; Rosa, Sinar, Ibrahim-Bell, & Setia, 2018), self-correction or self-revision (Sofyan & Rosa, 2015; Sofyan & Tarigan, 2017), influences of competence and experience in translation process (Shreve, Angelone, & Lacruz, 2018), differences in translation process between professional translators and student translators (Rosa, 2017; Sofyan, 2016).

In addition, other studies on process-oriented translation explore problems encountered by translators while doing their tasks (Akan, Karim, & Chowdhury, 2019; Schwarz, Stiegelbauer, & Husar, 2016) and strategies used to solve translation problems (Arjomandi & Kafipour, 2016; Ibrahim, 2017). Although a number of studies on translation strategies have been done, other studies on translation strategies are always expected because of different text types. Several studies have been conducted on strategies in translating legal texts (Stepanova, 2017), science and technology texts (Zheng, 2017), and literary translation (Kazakova, 2015; Klimovich, 2016; Suo, 2015). In addition, different translation strategies are also used in different languages due to their different cultures.

Translation process for literary works is crucial, because through this process we would present the ideas, stories and cultures to other people from completely different language. In addition, the translator could not change the concept and style of the novel, even though the translator encounters the problems in the translation process such as the differences in the culture. The translator needs to find the equivalence of the Source Language such as local language, formal and informal language, diction and etc., so the readers from different language could understand them.

There are several studies related to translation equivalence and strategies used in translating. Hasanah (2012) analyzed translation equivalence of auxiliary verbs in English to Bahasa Indonesia. The analysis of the study based on the equivalence and the grammatical in the novel, to find and explain the shift in meaning when the auxiliaries are being translated and for the grammatical, she analyzed the subject and predicate in the sentences or clauses that contained auxiliaries, to find and explain the shift in grammatical to the meaning from the translation process.

Jamil (2013) also conducted study to classify the translation shift of phrasal verb and to describe the equivalence of phrasal verb and its translation. He compares two languages based on the level and category shift and the equivalence of translation. In his research, he found that the level shift consists of phrasal verbs into verbs and in the structure shift the phrasal verb into verb phrase and un-translated phrasal verb. Saputriyani (2018) who

conducted similar study focused on classifying and describing the translation equivalent from the novel. She compared two languages based on translation strategies, shift and translation equivalent. In her research, translation strategies used in the novel are deletion, adoption, additional and the shifts in translation are translation shift, meaning shift, structure shift, level shift, class shift, unit shift and punctuation. Adoption and additional is the most strategies used in the novel, and for the shifts are meaning shift and punctuation. As for the equivalent found in the research mostly are grammatical equivalent and pragmatic equivalent.

According to the previous studies mentioned above, it has not been known the study which investigate translation equivalence and strategies found in *Laut Bercerita* (The Sea Speaks His Name novel by Leila S. Chudori. The aim of the research is to describe what translation equivalence and strategies in the novel titled "*Laut Bercerita*" by Leila S. Chudori in Bahasa Indonesia, and the English version "The Sea Speaks His Name" translated by John H. McGlynn. Therefore, this research, theoretically, will help to improve the knowledge of translation equivalence and strategies.

METHODS

This study used a descriptive qualitative method to describe the process of Indonesian-English translation. Lodico, Spaulding and Voegtle (2010, p.112) state that qualitative research is characterized by flexible, naturalistic methods of data collection and usually does not use standardized instruments as its major data source. As for the method, The Researcher used content analysis method. Bauer (as cited in Krippendorff, 2004) describes content analysis inferring answers to particular research questions from their texts. The object of this research are novels in Bahasa Indonesia "*Laut Bercerita*" by Leila S. Chudori published in Jakarta by *Kepustakaan Populer Gramedia* in 2017 with total pages of the novel are 379 pages, and the English version translated by John H. McGlynn "The Sea Speaks His Name" published in Singapore by Penguin Random House SEA in 2020 with total pages of the translated novel are 308 pages.

The researcher analyzed this study by: 1) Reading the novels; 2) Analysis the data from the novel in the form of words and phrases from Source Language and Target Language in Bahasa Indonesia and English; 3) Classifying and analyzed the data based on translation strategies and translation equivalence from Nida (1964) and the other equivalence proposed by Baker (1992).

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

After conducting the analysis, it can be found that there are 19 data in word category and 26 data in phrases. Translation equivalence used to analyze were dynamic equivalence (DE), formal equivalence (FE), and equivalence at word level (EWL) which are summarized in the table below.

Table 1. The Summary of Translation Equivalence found in *Laut Bercerita*

	Translation Equivalence			Total
	DE	FE	EWL	
Phrases	14	4	8	26
Words	9	0	10	19
Total	23	4	18	45

The result from the data table above show that there are 45 data in the form of words and phrases in *Laut Bercerita* (The Sea Speaks His Name). Those are divided to 2 categories; 19 data in word category, and 26 data in phrases. According to the result of the analysis, it found that two out of three theories of translation equivalence used proposed by Nida (1964) and the other equivalence proposed by Baker (1992). The analysis of the translation strategies found in the novel can be seen in the table below.

Table 2. Translation Strategies applied to words and phrases

	Translation Strategies								Total
	A	CT	DE	IT	LT	ST	TT	T	
DE	3	10	1	2	0	6	1	0	23
FE	0	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	4
EWL	3	6	2	0	0	4	0	3	18
Total	6	16	4	2	3	10	1	3	45

From the result table above, the data which consist of words and phrases have been classified into translation strategies, and have been elaborated with the translation equivalence, as follows:

In total there are 10 data of Adaptation (A), 3 data are classified to Dynamic Equivalence (DE) and 3 data to Equivalence at Word Level (EWL), then, with 16 data of Communicative Translation (CT), 10 are classified to DE and 6 data to EWL. The next one is Descriptive Equivalent (DE), 1 datum is classified as DE, 1 datum as Formal Equivalence (FE), and there are 2 data classified as EWL.

For Idiomatic Translation (IT), there are 2 data found, and both are classified as DE. Then, there are 3 data classified to Literal Translation (LT), and those data are also classified to FE. Next, in total there are 10 data of Semantic Translation (ST), 6 data are classified to DE and 4 data to EWL. In Through Translation (TT), there is only 1 datum found, and it is classified to DE. And the last one is Transference (T), 3 data of it are classified to EWL.

Based on the table above, we can be perceiving that the highest frequency of translation strategies applied is communicative translation which the total occurrence is 16. In second place, the semantic translation is applicable to dynamic equivalence and equivalence at word level. It found that adaptation is used to 6 data. Translation strategies used to analyze are translation methods and procedures provided by Newmark (Newmark, 1988).

Datum 1

ST: "*Sang Penyair pernah menulis sebit puisi ini di atas secarik kertas lusuh.*" hal. 1

TT: "**The Poet** wrote that line on a crumpled piece of paper." p.ix

TE: Formal Equivalence

TS: Literal Translation

In datum 1, formal equivalence was used to translate phrase *sang penyair* to "the poet". The two constructions of Source Text (ST) and Target Text (TT) have the same sequence of words; the ST consists of *sang* (article), *penyair* (noun) and the TT "the" (article) and "poet" (noun). As a result, the formal equivalence is attained. The strategy of translation for the phrase is literal translation; the translator chooses the grammatical constructions of the ST that are matching to the TT. The phrase "*sang penyair*" had been translated according to the English phrase structure into "the poet".

Datum 2

ST: "*Sembari mengepulkan asap rokoknya yang menggeling-geling ke udara, dia mengatakan aku harus selalu bangkit, meski aku mati.*" hal.1

TT: "And as he blew **smoke rings** into the air, he told me I must always be able to rise, even from death." p.ix

TE: Dynamic Equivalence

TS: Communicative Translation

In datum 2, dynamic equivalence is used to translate the phrase *asap rokoknya yang menggeling-geling* to “smoke rings”. If the phrase *asap rokoknya yang menggeling-geling* literally translated to “cigarette smoke that coiled”, the translation is not precise to the contexts of TT, considering the readers of the text to understand the translation thus the phrase translated into “smoke rings”. The strategy of translation used for the phrase is communicative translation. The phrase *asap rokoknya yang menggeling-geling* is translated to “smoke rings”, the translation is not closely following the original form in ST, but the result reproduces the general meaning of the ST and easy to understand.

Datum 3

ST: “*Dialah si Mata Merah, satu-satunya dari mereka yang pernah kulihat wajahnya dan kukenali dari bau rokok kretaknya yang menghambur dari mulutnya.*” hal.2

TT: “I called him Red Eyes, caused, no doubt, by the constant wafts of clove-scented *kretak* smoke that poured from his mouth.” p.x

TE: Equivalence at word level

TS: Transference

In datum 3, the equivalence in word *kretak* is equivalence at word level, which the word *kretak* is a non-equivalence word categorized as the ST concept that not lexicalized in the TT. According to Hanusz (2000, p. 140-143), *kretak* is unfiltered cigarettes of Indonesian origin, the word *kretak* is an onomatopoeia term for the crackling sound of burning cloves. The word *kretak* has no equivalence, although the meaning of the word is clear. Retrieved from Oxford Learner Dictionary (2015, p. 1044), onomatopoeia is word containing sounds similar to the noises they describe. Thus, transference strategy is used to borrow the word *kretak*. Also, the translator borrows the word *kretak* to introduce the word as part of Indonesian culture.

Datum 4

ST: “*Atau bak Dewi Kali yang perlahan menarik nyawaku dari tubuh seperti seuntai benang yang perlahan-lahan ditarik dari sehelai kain tenun.*” hal. 5

TT: “Or like the **God of Time, Kali**, slowly plucking my soul from my body like a thread which when pulled causes the entire skein of cloth to unravel.” p. xii

TE: Equivalence at word level

TS: Semantic Translation

The equivalence for the phrase *Dewi Kali* is equivalence at word level; it is a non-equivalence phrase as a culture specific concept. *Dewi Kali* relates to religion belief, in this

case is Hindu Goddess. Kali, in Hinduism, is goddess of time, doomsday and death, or the black goddess (Encyclopedia Online Britannica, 2020). The translation strategy is semantic translation, since the phrase translated as “God of Time, Kali”; the phrase still maintains the aesthetic element of ST and the phrases also reasonable since the phrase use the description of the goddess according to the meaning.

Datum 5

ST: “Ruang besar ini bisa kita gunakan sebagai tempat diskusi. Pasang **tikar** saja.” hal. 12

TT: “All we’d need to do is to roll out some **mats**.” p. 5

TE: Equivalence at word level

TS: Adaptation

The word *tikar* is non-equivalence in culture-specific concepts. *Tikar* is *anyaman daun pandan untuk lapis duduk, tidur dan lain sebagainya* – plaited mats from pandan leaf for sit, sleep, etc.- (KBBI Online, 2020). The closest equivalent for *tikar* is “mats”, retrieve from Oxford Learner’s Dictionary, mats is a piece of thick material such as rubber or plastic used especially in some short of people to lie on or fall onto (2020, p. 929). Even though the meaning of those words is different, but the function is similar. The strategy of translation is adaptation; “mats” is used to translate *tikar* as special terms that contain cultural elements.

Datum 6

ST: “Jendela diberi kaca dan gordena *blacu* yang sangat sangat murah; kursi-kursi tamu dan beberapa meja kerja diperbaiki dan dipernis.” hal. 14

TT: “New glass would be needed for the broken window panes and some cheap cloth curtains.” p. 6

TE: Equivalence at word level

TS: Communicative Translation

In datum 6, the equivalence for *blacu* or *belacu* is equivalence at word level, the word *blacu* is different in proportional meaning, in ST *blacu* stands for mori cloth; an unbleached cotton cloth not fully processed and the price is cheap. In TT, the unbleached cotton cloth called “calico”, but the translator uses the phrase “cheap cloth” instead of “calico”. The translation strategy for the word *blacu* to “cheap cloth” is communicative translation, in which the translator delivers the meaning of the word in TT so the readers can understand the word easily.

Datum 7

ST: “*Sunu menjawil lenganku, seolah aku adalah penerjemah ide Kinan.*” hal. 14

TT: "Sunu put his hand on my arm as if expecting me to translate Kinan's unspoken idea for him." p. 7

TE: Equivalence at word level

TS: Semantic Translation

In datum 7, translation equivalence for *menjawab* is equivalence at word level, a non-equivalence in which the ST word is semantically complex. The word *menjawab* expresses a complex set of meanings. In ST dictionary, *menjawab* is *menyentuh dengan ujung jari (supaya diperhatikan dan sebagainya); mencolek; menggamit* -touch with the tip of finger, to get attention, etc., touching, grab- (KBBI Online, 2020). The word *menjawab* is translated to phrase "put his hand on my arm" with semantic translation, the translator uses the phrase "put his hand on my arm" by shifting contextual meaning as close as possible in TT according to the context.

Datum 8

ST: "'Soal jarak dan keruwetan arah...,' Kinan menatap wajah Daniel yang tampaknya belum puas berteater," hal. 16

TT: "'As for the location...,' Kinan looked intently at Daniel, who appeared still to be in actor's mode." p. 8

TE: Dynamic Equivalence

TS: Communicative Translation

In datum 8, the phrase *jarak dan keruwetan arah* is translated to "location", the translation equivalence for the ST is dynamic translation. If the phrase literally translated to TT as "distance and the difficulties of direction", the translation is not appropriate. The translator uses "location" instead to express ST message, in which the word "location" also includes the "distance and direction of a place". The translation adjusts the purpose of ST meaning as close as possible in TT. The translation strategy is communicative translation; the translator uses the word "location" for the readers in TT easy to understand the phrase.

Datum 9

ST: "Keesokan harinya, sesuai kuliah Sejarah Sastra Inggris yang hamper selalu minim mahasiswa, kami bertemu lagi di warung Bu Retno di pinggir selokan Mataram." hal. 20

TT: "The next day, after my History of English Literature class (whose enrolment was minimal in number), we met at

Bu Retno food stall, next to the rain culvert in the side of Mataram Avenue." p. 11

TE: Equivalence at word level

TS: Adaptation

The word *warung* is translated to “food stall” in TT; translation equivalence for the phrase “food stall” is equivalence at word level, as a non-equivalence word in which the ST and TT make different distinctions in meaning. The word *warung* in ST means *tempat menjual makanan, minuman, kelontong, dan sebagainya*; -a place to sell foods, beverages, etc. (KBBI Online, 2020) The word *warung*, according to the meaning, is not only a place that sells foods but also beverages and other things. The translator uses the phrase “food stall” to make less distinction in meaning following the context of the paragraph in the novel, in which the seller served the foods for people. The translation strategy is adaptation, the closest equivalent for *warung* is “food stall” in TT, and to provide term that easily understood by the readers in TT.

Datum 10

ST: “*Begitu takjub aku melihat pesanannya karena belum pernah melihat perempuan yang menikmati nasi warung tegal sebagaimana Asmara Jati menggauli makanan dihadapannya. Tanpa sungkan, tanpa malu. hal. 20*”

TT: “I didn’t think anyone but my sister Asmara could find so much enjoyment in eating food at a roadside food stall. But Kinan apparently loved to eat and made no bones about it.” p. 11

TE: Dynamic Equivalence

TS: Idiomatic Translation

The phrases *tanpa sungkan, tanpa malu* is translated to “no bones”. Translation equivalence for the phrases is dynamic translation, with the purpose to find the closest equivalence from the message to TT. The phrases *tanpa sungkan, tanpa malu*, if it literally is translated to “without respect and no ashamed”, are translated to the idiom “no bones”. In Urban Dictionary Online, the idiom means “without a doubt or without argument” (Urban Dictionary Online, 2020). The phrases indicate that the person related to the phrase *tanpa sungkan, tanpa malu* do the act without reluctance and had no shame over the act and the translator chooses the idiom “no bones” to express the act. Translation strategy used is idiomatic translation, the ST is not actually an idiom but the translator used the idiom to describe the phrases and the act.

CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the research, it can be concluded that communicative translation, adaptation and semantic translation appeared more frequently in the novel, the strategies are applied to cultural words, diction, and term. Those strategies are used to adjust the cultural words from Source Text to Target Text and focusing to deliver the

message from Source Text to Target Text to the closest natural equivalent in target text. Then, translation strategies often use for phrases are communicative translation and semantic translation. The implication is the strategies are applied to diction, term. Those strategies are used to deliver the message from Source Text to closest natural equivalent in Target Text and reproducing words in Target Text with aesthetic element similar with the phrases in Source Text by compromising the meaning of Source Text.

The limitation during the research were finding which equivalent and strategies applied to the word and phrases that contain cultural element and the use of diction from Source Text in the Target Text. Often words from Source Text are translated to descriptive phrases in Target Text and on the contrary the phrases that long enough in Source Text are translated to simple word in Target Text. To resolve the difficulties, the researcher tried to understand the message from the words and phrases from Source Text within the context of the words and phrases occurred in the sentences and compare the message of words and phrases in the Target Text context and categorized the equivalent that applied to the words and phrases.

These research findings could inspire other researchers to develop similar research related to the translation equivalence applied in the translation version of the novel, such as analyzed the equivalence in the translation whether the message in the Target Text is equivalent with the Source Text. Without the concept of equivalence, Translation Studies would be impossible because its very subject would get lost. It is the essence of translation to create a text concurring with the original in all possible respects. Only such a commonsense-based understanding of translation allows us to recognize other activities and products in translation. Despite the fact that equivalence can be most easily perceived at the level of word or sentence.

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